



Big Cypress National Preserve

Ranger-led Activities

Winter 2003



Big Cypress Visitor Center is located mid-way between Naples and Miami on Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail). Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For a great introduction to Big Cypress National Preserve a 15 minute movie, *The Living Waters of Big Cypress*, is available for viewing at the Visitor Center.

Join a Big Cypress ranger for a program about the wonders of the Big Cypress Swamp and the Everglades ecosystem. All activities are free. Make reservations by calling **239-695-1201**. Reservations are accepted up to 14 days in advance of activity date.

Swamp Walks - Sundays, Mondays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m., starting December 29. Discover what's out there! This is a great way to experience the swamp! Cypress knees and sawgrass make long pants necessary. Wear sturdy shoes that you can get wet and muddy. Bring a change of pants, socks and shoes for your ride home. Limited to 20 people. 2 - 3 hours. Reservations required.

Canoe Trips - Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. starting January 4th. We'll provide the canoes or you may bring your own. These trips vary by weather, water level, tide and ranger's choice of location and duration. Some canoeing skill is required. Limited to 8 canoes. 4 hours. Reservations required.

Campfire Programs - Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. starting January 17th. Friday - Midway Campground. Saturday - Monument Lake Campground. Topics will vary by ranger's choice. Bring insect repellent and a lawn chair. There is no need to make reservations; just come on by.

Bicycle Trips at Bear Island - The fourth Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m., starting January 26th. Bring your own sturdy bicycle. This is a great chance to spend time on your bike seeing a variety of Big Cypress habitats. Birds of prey are often spotted. Trips depart from an access point north of I-75, off Highway 29. Details of the meeting location will be provided when you make your reservation. Limited to 15 people. 4 hours.

H.P. Williams Picnic Area Talks - Join a ranger at H.P. Williams picnic area Sunday at 2:00 p.m. to learn more about your Preserve's natural and cultural history. A spotting scope will be available to get a close-up look at alligators and a variety of birds. Volunteers will periodically be available in the afternoons during the week - stop by with questions and for a closer look at the wildlife that is often in the area.

Special Requests - We can often provide a ranger program for your special group. With advance notice we can send a ranger to classrooms, activity centers and auditoriums for special programs. We can also arrange for a ranger to lead your group on an adventure in the Preserve. For more information or to make a reservation for these special programs, call 239-695-1164 or 239-695-1107.

Come prepared for programs - bring water, sun protection, insect repellent, snacks and a sense of adventure for all trips. (This schedule is subject to change.)